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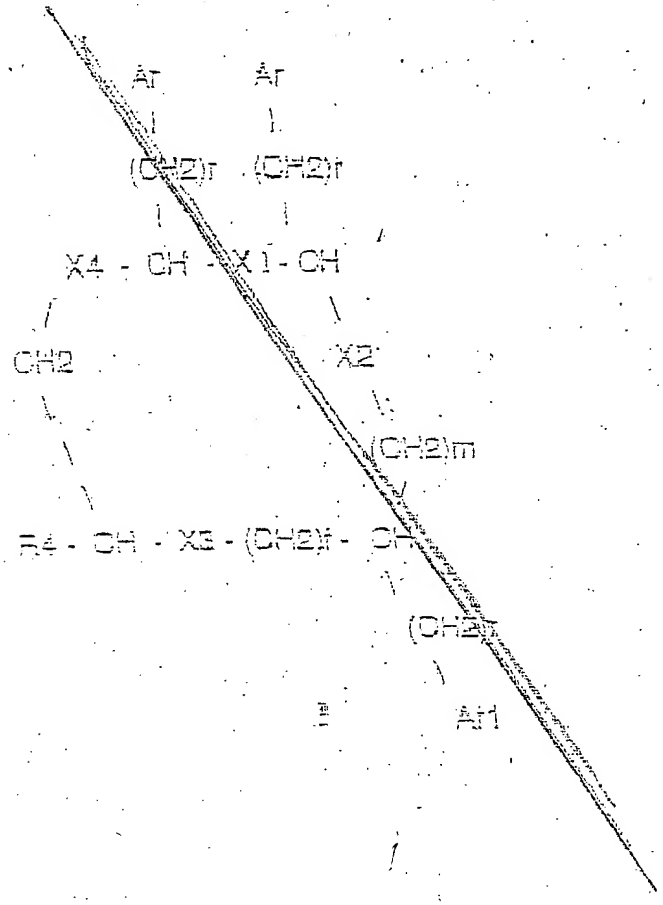
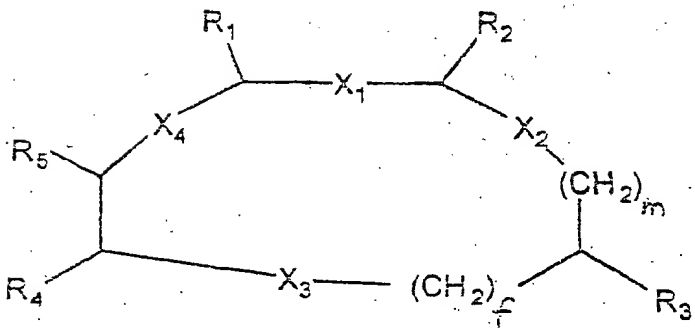
In response to the Advisory Action of February 18, 2004 in the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, please replace the original structural formula with the following:



(I)



(I)

Page 1, lines 18-19, please insert the following:

X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, same or different, are a group chosen among: -CONR-, -NRCO- $-CH_2-NR-$, $-NR-CH_2-$ where R is H, C_{1-3} alkyl, or benzyl;

Page 1, lines 22-27, please insert the following:

$-(CH_2)_r Ar_1$ where r is 0, 1 or 2 and Ar is an aromatic group chosen among benzene, naphthalene, thiopene, benzothiophene, pyridine, quinoline, indole, furan, benzofuran, thiazole, benzothiazole, imidazole, benzoimidazole, possibly substituted with up to 2 substituents chosen among C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} haloalkyl, C_{1-3} alkyloxy and C_{2-4} amino-alkyloxy, halogens, OH, NH_2, CN, NR_6R_7 , where R_6 and R_7, are the same or different, and are H or C_{1-3} alkyl,

At page 2, lines 2-12, please replace with the following:

--R_9 is a methanesulfonyl, tosyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl possible mono or di-substituted by oxygen on the S atom, piperidyl ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted on the N atom by a C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} acyl, aminosulfonyl, or methanesulfonyl; or a group $(CH_2)_gR_{10}$ where g is 1,2, or 3 and R_{10} is chosen among morpholine, furan, or CN; or R_8 and R_9 together with the N atom to which they are linked form a piperazine ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted at the other N atom ~~one of its nitrogen atoms~~ by C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} acyl or methanesulfonyl;--

At page 2, lines 13-21, please insert the following:

$-N(R_{11})CO(CH_2)_h-R_{12}$ where R_{11} is H, or C_{1-3} alkyl; h is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and R_{12} is chosen among: morpholine, pyrrolidine possibly substituted with an hydroxy or an hydroxymethyl, piperidine possibly substituted with a group hydroxy, carboxyamido or aminosulfonyl, piperazine possibly substituted on the N-atom by C_{1-3} alkyl, triazole, tetrazole, 5-mercapto-tetrazole, furan, thiophene, thiomorpholine possibly mono or di-oxygenated on the S-atom, and amino-cyclohexane possibly substituted by an hydroxy group, or

$-COR_{13}$ wherein R_{13} is morpholine or piperazine possibly substituted with a C_{2-6} alkyl containing one or more ether or hydroxy groups; and R_5 is H.

At page 4, line 3, please insert:

--R_1 and R_2 same or different, are:÷ --

At page 4, lines 14-27, please replace with the following:

R_9 is chosen among: methanesulfonyl, tosyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl possibly mono or di-substituted by oxygen on the S atom, piperidyl possibly substituted on the N-atom by a C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} acyl, aminosulfonyl or methanesulfonyl; or a group $(CH_2)_g$-R_{10} where g is 1, 2 or 3 and R_{10} is chosen among morpholine, furan or CN;

or R_8 and R_9 together with the N atom to which they are linked form a piperazine possibly substituted on the other N atom with a C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} acyl or methanesulfonyl;

$-N(R_{11})CO(CH_2)_h$-R_{12} where R_{11} is H or C_{1-3} alkyl; h is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

and R_{12} is chosen among: morpholine, pyrrolidine ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with an hydroxy or hydroxymethyl, piperidine ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with a ~~group~~ 4-hydroxy, or 4-carboxyamido group ~~or aminosulfonyl~~, piperazine ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted on the other N-atom by C_{1-3} alkyl, triazole, tetrazole, 5-mercapto-tetrazole, furan, thiophene thiomorpholine ~~possibly~~ optionally mono or di-oxygenated on the S-atom, and amino-cyclohexane possibly substituted by an hydroxy group;--

At page 5, lines 11-14, please replace with the the following:

--An even more preferred group of compounds according to the invention are those wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3, f, m are as above defined and:

R_4 is a group NR_8R_9 wherein:

R_8 is H or methyl;